

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel originally filed Claims 1-23, and replace them with the following new Claims 24-30.

1 24) A microlancet device for obtaining a blood
2 sample through the skin of a subject, comprising:
3 an elongated single crystal silicon substrate having
4 a base end and a penetration end;
5 a base portion formed at the base end of the silicon
6 substrate for permitting the device to be retained during
7 penetration and sampling; and
8 a penetration portion formed at the penetration end
9 of the silicon substrate, terminating in a sharp point
10 with smooth continuous cutting profile for easily
11 piercing and penetrating the skin of the subject in order
12 to obtain a blood sample while inflicting minimum pain on
13 the subject.

1 25) The device of Claim 24, wherein the penetration
2 portion has a thickness cross-section dimension and a
3 width cross-section dimension, at least one of which
4 tapers toward the penetration end to form the sharp
5 point.

1 26) The device of Claim 25, wherein the thickness
2 cross-section dimension of the penetration portion
3 extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250
4 micrometers excluding the sharp point, and the width
5 cross-section dimension of the penetration portion also
6 extends from about 50 micrometers to about 250
7 micrometers excluding the sharp point.

1 27) The device of Claim 26, wherein the penetration
2 end of the silicon substrate has a length of from about 1
3 millimeter to about 3 millimeters.

1 28) The device of Claim 24, further comprising a
2 silicon nitride film over at least part of the base
3 portion.

1 29) The device of Claim 28, wherein the silicon
2 nitride film is about 2000 Angstroms thick.

1 30) The device of Claim 24, wherein the microlancet
2 device is disposable.